

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image display method comprising the steps of:

performing interimage processing on two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images taken of the same subject, which become objects of comparison and reading; and

arranging, or switching in sequence, and displaying two or more interimage-processed images generated by said interimage processing.
2. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said two or more interimage-processed images are arranged in a manner in which display positions of structurally characteristic parts of said subject in said two or more interimage-processed images are aligned.
3. (previously presented): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said two or more interimage-processed images are switched in sequence in a manner in which display positions of structurally characteristic parts of said subject in said two or more interimage-processed images are registered.
4. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said three or more original images are taken in sequence in a time series manner.

5. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said three or more original images are taken in sequence in a time series manner.

6. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said three or more original images are taken in sequence in a time series manner.

7. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said image.

8. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said image.

9. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said image.

10. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 4, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said image.

11. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 7, wherein said three or more original images are acquired in sequence in a time series manner, and said reference image is the newest or oldest in a time series.

12. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 4, wherein each of said interimage-processed images is generated by performing said interimage processing on two of said three or more original images which are adjacent in a time series.

13. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said interimage processing is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

14. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said interimage processing is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

15. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said interimage processing is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

16. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said interimage processing is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

17. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said interimage processing is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

18. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said interimage processing is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

19. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein, in said interimage processing the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

20. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein, in said interimage processing the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

21. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein, in said interimage processing the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

22. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said two or more interimage-processed images are arranged, or switched in sequence, and displayed, in the order that said original images on which said interimage-processed images are based were taken.

23. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said three or more images are medical radiation images.

24. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said interimage-processed images is generated by performing said interimage processing on two of said three or more original images which are adjacent in a time series.

25. (original): The image display method as set forth in claim 3, wherein each of said interimage-processed images is generated by performing said interimage processing on two of said three or more original images which are adjacent in a time series.

26. (original): An image display unit comprising:

image display means;

interimage processing means for performing interimage processing on two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images of the same subject, which become objects of comparison and reading; and

display-format setting means for causing said image display means to arrange, or switch in sequence, and display two or more interimage-processed images obtained by said interimage processing means.

27. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, further comprising registration means for aligning display positions of structurally characteristic parts of said subject in said two or more interimage-processed images.

28. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, further comprising registration means for registering display positions of structurally characteristic parts of said subject in said two or more interimage-processed images.

29. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said three or more original images were taken in sequence in a time series manner.

30. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 27, wherein said three or more original images were taken in sequence in a time series manner.

31. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 28, wherein said three or more original images were taken in sequence in a time series manner.

32. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said reference image.

33. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 27, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said reference image.

34. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 28, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said reference image.

35. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 29, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said reference image.

36. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 32, wherein said three or more original images were taken in sequence in a time series manner, and said selected one original image is the newest or oldest in a time series.

37. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein each of said interimage-processed images is generated by performing said interimage processing on two of said three or more original images which are adjacent in a time series.

38. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

39. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 27, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

40. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 28, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images.

41. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

42. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 27, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

43. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 28, wherein said interimage processing in said interimage processing means is the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images.

44. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein, in said interimage processing in said interimage processing means, the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

45. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 27, wherein, in said interimage processing in said interimage processing means, the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

46. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 28, wherein, in said interimage processing in said interimage processing means, the process of registering positions of structural elements of said two original images is first performed, and then the process of performing subtraction between corresponding pixels in said two original images is performed.

47. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said display-format setting means arranges, or switches in sequence, and displays said two or more interimage-processed images in the order that said original images on which said interimage-processed images are based were taken.

48. (original): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said three or more images are medical radiation images.

49. (previously presented): The image display method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said interimage processing is performed on two or more pairs of original images.

50. (previously presented): The image display method as set forth in claim 49, wherein one image of said two or more pairs of original images is common to all said pairs.

51. (previously presented): The image display unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said interimage processing is performed on two or more pairs of original images.

52. (previously presented): The image display unit as set forth in claim 51, wherein one image of said two or more pairs of original images is common to all said pairs.

53. (previously presented): The image display method of claim 1, wherein the interimage processing is automated.

54. (previously presented): The image display unit of claim 26, wherein the interimage processing is automated.

55. (new): An image display method comprising the steps of:
performing interimage processing on two original images, constituting each of two or more pairs of original images selected from three or more original images taken of the same affected part of the same patient in a temporal series, which become objects of comparison and reading; and

arranging, or switching in sequence, and displaying two or more interimage-processed images generated by said interimage processing, that represents a change with the passage of time in the affected part.

56. (new): The image display method as set forth in claim 55, wherein one of said two original images is selected as a reference image so that each of said interimage-processed images is generated based on said image.

57. (new): The image display method as set forth in claim 56, wherein the reference image is the newest or oldest in the temporal series.